

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following:

In one example, a sensor 81 is used to detect a change in the vacuum applied at the interleaf end effector 80. Therefore, during operation, as the interleaf end effector 80 is lowered towards the interleaf sheets 30, a detected change of a certain magnitude in a vacuum pressure level is recognized as indicating that the interleaf end effector 80 has contacted a top interleaf 30 in the stack. This detected change in vacuum causes an interrupt at the system computer, which, in turn, causes the system computer to raise the end effector 80 away from the interleaf stack 30, and permit the transfer arm 40 to retrieve and retain only one interleaf sheet 30. In this way, the vacuum change prevents the end effector 80 from pressing the interleaf sheets 30 together and minimizes the development of an electrostatic bond between multiple interleaf sheets 30. This manner of picking up the interleaf sheets 30 is referred to as a "feather touch mode" material handling. The system 10 can also be configured so that the transfer arm 40 descends slowly towards the interleaf stack 30 and moves up relatively quickly to promote disengagement of the interleaf sheet 30 from the interleaf end effector 80 of the transfer arm 40.

Also, please replace paragraph [0044] with the following:

When the interleaf sheet 30 reaches and engages the diffuser 110, a sensor 81 determines a reduction in pressure to the transfer arm 40 and the system 10 next applies a vacuum to the interleaf sheet 30 to secure the interleaf sheet to the end effector 80 for transport. The use of this interleaf end effector 80 results in a highly reliable interleaf transfer mechanism independent of the porosity and geometry of the interleaf sheet 30.